International Fund for Agricultural Development was also approved. Some other decisions were in respect of the funding of the Regional Institute of Medical sciences, Imphal; giving more importance to the agriculture and allied sectors by providing full time Advisers in Horticulture, Fisheries and Animal Husbandry in the NEC Secretariat, and posting of officers for the NEC Secretariat to be made attractive by providing special incentives to attract talent from throughout the country. It was also decided to urge the Central Government to give high priority for early completion of the Jogighopa Bridge over River Brahmaputra.

Review of National forest Policy

958. SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are reviewing the present National Forest Policy; if so, the salient features thereof; and

(b) whether it is a fact that several individuals and the NCPCLR have opposed the proposal to lease out forest lands to industrial houses; if so, what are the main points made therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) A proposal for "Involvement of Industry in Afforestation of degraded Forest Land", which incorporates certain modifications in the National Forest Policy, 1988 is under consideration of the Government.

The main apprehension expressed by the various agencies opposing the proposal are as under:

(i) Leasing and diversion of rich forest land for captive monoculture plantations.

(ii) Depriving of the tribals and rural folk of their traditional rights.

(iii) Joint forest management and other people's participation scheme will suffer.

(iv) Farmers who have gone in for agro-forestry on their private land will be deprived of market for their produce since industry's would prefer to plant up degraded forest land.

(v) The scheme will result in fragmentation of forests as industry will want to grab patches as and where they like.

Recognition of Hindi as Official Language of the UN

959. SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present status of India's permanent membership of the Security Council and at what levels the PM raised the issue and with what results;

(b) whether Government have recently taken up initiative for the recognition of Hindi as the official language of the UN;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, whether Government has at any stage taken up the issue formally; and

(e) if so, the present status?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L.BHATJA): (a) Question of Security Council restructuring is being discussed in a Working Group set up by UN General Assembly. India has expressed willingness to serve as permanent member of the Security Council. PM has raised the issue in his bilateral discussions with several world leaders.

(b) to (e) The introduction of Hindi as an official UN language has engaged the attention of the Government for several years. Introduction of a new UN language requires majority support of member states in addition to large financial implications. Our consultations

in this regard have not been encouraging. Meanwhile, Government of India has been making temporary arrangements in the Permanent Mission of India to the UN at New York to provide Hindi translation/typing facilities to our delegates who would wish to speak in Hindi. Arrangements for passive on the spot translation of speeches delivered in Hindi can be made available at UN and other specialised agencies whenever required.

बेबी फूड के उत्पादन पर नियंत्रण, रखने संबंधी प्रस्ताव

960. **श्री सुंदर सिंह भंडारी :** क्या खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने बेबी फूड के उत्पादन को नियंत्रित करने के प्रस्ताव को ठंडे बस्ते में डाल दिया है और यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण है, और

(ख) इस समय कितनी मात्रा में बेबी फूड का उत्पादन किया जा रहा है एंव कितने की खपत हो रही है ?

खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री के.पी.सिंह. देव): (क) इस मंत्रालय का विचार बेबी फूड के उत्पादन की मात्रा को नियंत्रित करने का नहीं है।

(ख) अनुमान है कि वर्ष 1994 के दौरान 53,900 मी.टन बेबी फूड इसमें वीनिंग फूड शामिल नहीं है, का उत्पादन किया गया। यह पता लगाने के लिए कोई सर्वेक्षण नहीं किया गया है कि बेबी फूड की कितनी खपत हो रही है।

Inflow of Pakistanis to India

961. SHRI: SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Pakistan Interior Minister declared recently in the National Assembly that 2.5 million immiigrants would be deported from that country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to prevent the inflow of such Pakistanis into India on being expelled from Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) to (c) It has been reported that Pakistan Interior Minister stated in the Pakistan National Assembly on 31 October, 1995 that an operation has been launched to extradite illegal immigrants from Sindh (Pakistan).

A strict vigil is maintained on our borders to prevent the entry of illegal immigrants into the country.

Development of Port Sector

962. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the broad objectives of development of port sector proposed for the Eighth Five Year Plan and funds earmarked therefor;

(b) the various developmental activities undertaken in different ports during the plan period and the funds allocated to each major port for the purpose; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. RAJASEKARA MURTHY): (a) The broad objectives of development of port sector during the Eighth Five Year Plan include modernisation of major ports by replacement of old & obsolete equipment, re-alignment of existing old jetties and berths, construction of new jetties/berths, development of specialised/mechanised facilities for handling various commodities like containers, POL, coal and fertiliser and deepening of ports to recieve large size vessels. An outlay of Rs. 3216 crorcs has been provided in the Eighth Five Year Plan for development of Port Sector including Major Ports., Dredging Corporation of India, Andaman